



*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

## **Eliminate Social Services Block Grants to States**

*December 5, 2012*

**Program or Item Targeted:** A program of block grants to states for social services.

**Cost of Program or Item:** Repeal of this program would save [\\$16.7 billion over ten years](#).

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunsetting:** The Social Services Block Grant Program, which is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, is a capped entitlement program under which all states are apportioned a share of funding by formula. Begun in 1956 as a way to match state spending on services to help families leave welfare, the SSBG is now a 100 percent federal funding stream that can be used to provide almost any service to anyone regardless of their income. The program funds a variety of initiatives including disability services, child welfare services, day care, and others. The program is also used by states to refer individuals to other government programs.

**Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful:** As Ways and Means Committee Chairman Camp said, "the Social Services Block Grant is now a 100% federal funding stream that can be used to provide almost any service to anyone regardless of their income. The program requires no state contributions, includes no eligibility criteria, and has no real accountability for results... Meanwhile there are literally dozens of larger and more accountable programs that provide the same sorts of services funded by the SSBG." The Ways and Means Committee found that major federal welfare programs created after SSBG, and funding the same or similar services, received more than \$445.7 billion in federal funding in 2011.

The federal government should not operate overlapping programs, especially while running unprecedented deficits and racking up the largest debt in world history. This unfocused and unaccountable aid will help deprive those in need of future assistance when the federal government's deficit spending catches up to it. The federal government should eliminate this duplicative and poorly-designed block grant program in order to better ensure the current and future well being of American citizens, and to protect the taxpayer.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) has introduced H.R. 6442, which would amend title XX of the Social Security Act to repeal the program of block grants to states for social services. For more information or to cosponsor, please contact Chris Parinello at [Chris.Parinello@mail.house.gov](mailto:Chris.Parinello@mail.house.gov).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov).

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*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,  
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*

